

Net Neutrality protects the freedom of the people and allows everyone an equal voice. If it is removed then the economy will suffer, new businesses will never get off the ground, and there will be less competition and choice among consumers, which is essentially the root of Capitalism. The power of the people to choose what businesses they buy from and which businesses thrive and outlast others is why America is special. By allowing cable companies to gain such a huge monopoly on the market the FCC will violate the rights of every goddamn citizen in the country, not the other way around. There are people paying money right now to talk about problems that aren't real, aren't important or worthy. Any cable company that pretends the current net neutrality is a problem is trying to fix something that isn't broken and make life worse for the regular old, piss-poor, average joes. Start spending more time listening to actual domestic issues and not rich people whining about how much richer they COULD be if they charged people money for every little thing.

—Ryan McMahon, Clinton, NJ

Net neutrality is how the internet has always been for a reason. Without it, there's nothing stopping companies like Comcast, Verizon and their ilk from charging independent companies and business owners with small websites and even private citizens like us with blogs or other passion project websites hundreds or even thousands of dollars just to have normal loading times.

—Dylan Alcarese, Hoffman Estates, IL

Dear FCC, I believe in equal access. I believe that having an internet where the ability to access content equally helps maintain a balanced view of the world. If allowed, cable companies will gladly blot out any voices that dissent from the highest bidder. Elections will be won and lost based on who can pay the most. Companies will not be able to be started based on the absurdly high price of having a functional website. Maintain Net neutrality.

—Casey Bowen, Pocatello, ID

To lose Net Neutrality would be a step in the direction of a total corporate takeover of this country. If internet service providers are allowed to dictate who gets fast service and who does not, any dissenting opinions could be immediately suppressed, making it impossible for citizens to stop the amazing greed of the current corporate landscape from completely controlling every aspect of American culture. This cannot be allowed to happen in a country that claims to support the individual rights of its citizens.

—Dustin Ashman, Lancaster, MA

Websites that I frequent would not be able to pay for this "faster speed" and would render them much less enjoyable. It also prevents people from starting businesses online, due to the fact that it is very hard to be competitive when your competitors are much faster than you are. It is not right, and it needs to stop. I support net neutrality, and I support our government. I hope they make the right choice.

—Freddie Paulson, Decorah, IA

Net neutrality protects businesses like Netflix and Hulu that directly compete with big cable companies for viewers. If we allow cable companies to charge more to different organizations, they could possibly charge Netflix, Hulu et al out of business to access reasonable speeds driving up prices at the expense of the customers. With TV viewership and ad revenue plummeting, cable companies stand to gain a lot by slowing the growth of streaming video services.

—Colin Jonathan Kenley, San Diego, CA

Living in a country like Romania, without net neutrality, would anyone here actually get to use the internet and share their works online? I'd be alright, I know English, but a lot of people would lose a window to the world.

—Borcin-Tornoreanu Raoul Emanuel, Timisoara,

There is no reason to require start-up internet companies to pay more when direct customers are paying more for slower speeds than anyone else. In current america there is a lack of options for class-mobility and the internet is one of the last of those resources, rather it be for an animator, a blogger, an elderly womans hobby of making kitten mittens, or even young men and women with ideas that have no outlet, this is our tool for growth and discovery whenever the public school systems or outreach programs fail at their tasks it is possible for children to find something to benefit their lives. Its possible for all those people to become successful with their skills at hand, and its possible to connect to other cultures and keep your mind open, and we shouldn't expect web-sites to pay more for traffic before they even know what kind of exposure they will be receiving. Its precisely the problem with our college system that will be put in place of most of those college students back-up plans, which is the internet, and it would be veering us closer to becoming a communist nation such as China.

—Aaron Michael Raymond Bullock, South Bend, IN

Equal opportunity for all? Ending NN ends this.

—Peter R Paliga, Calumet City, IL

Net neutrality is important because I don't want to be stuck with slow internet just because I can't afford faster. The internet must be open and equal; allowing anything else is wrong. We need net neutrality.

—Justin Landowne, Exeter, NH

The internet without net neutrality would be shell of its former self.

—Charles Monnone, Brooklyn, NY

Because it would be more than a little embarrassing to be overtaken in another field by small African states. Because the cable companies are already making enough money to be able to spend hundreds of millions on lobbying for deregulation instead of infrastructure improvement. Because taking an industry with almost no competition and deregulating it doesn't sound like a good idea to anyone.

—Paul, Pittsburgh, PA

I am appalled that this is even an issue. The lobbying arm of big telecom companies is not who you serve, you serve the people of the USA. At a time when government control is increasingly creeping into our homes, the internet remains one of the few true bastions of the freedom this country was founded upon!

—Joseph Tarantino, Sarasota, FL

Because its the virtual reality, a online reflection of the society and world. Internet itself holds key elements to to globalization of the world. Its spreads knowledge as its spreads services and business. One wouldn't naturally allow a society where only a few are in power of the many. Internet is the people's opportunity to revolt against this without a physical engagement. One can only use his words on internet, and many voices can meet and discuss in neutral environments of their own homes. Only a man of greed, low IQ and lust for power could see a benefit in stealing the internet. You can not and should not put a labor on everything, everything is not for sale, something only a true educated person could see. One that hasn't been educated completely in the school of how to make money. Narrowing and trying to gain control over the internet is not profitable for the world. Internet may generate a lot of weirdness and dark sides of people, but it is also connecting people around the world making their ideas and whatnot evolve to something greater. The internet beholds power beyond measurements as its constantly strives forward and drags the society with it. People can now work together, create awareness, share history and knowledge.. my god a group of dedicated people can now knock down regimes with dictators if they so wished. The internet gives power to the people, it teaches them how to use it for themselves and others. Its a world within a world where the sole lonely person could be free to discover the ends of his horizon. This thing here is a science project in the making, an evolution of virtual thoughts and engagements. Please do not take control over something so amazing in this otherwise grey world we live in. See it from the little mans perspective for just ones, and you will see a big part of the future be created as ours, yours and the next generations will grow with the world as a complete place for everyone. I mean god damn it if we chose to be so damn scared about it in the reality and in our human flesh then at least let us try it virtually.

—Bajs O'mer Bajs, Bronx, NY

The internet is the single greatest forum for the free expression of ideas in the history of our species. This is an undeniable fact. While many would deem that not all ideas should be given equal voice, that is a decision which belongs in the hands of those who read them, NOT those who are most able to pay to have their own ideas granted priority. To suppress Net Neutrality is to suppress the very concept of freedom itself, for the sake of corporations who care about nothing but their own bottom line. While this is an attitude which is admittedly effective in the world of business, the line must be drawn when they attempt to reduce our freedom to express ourselves to yet another commodity to be bought and sold. It is my deepest, sincerest hope that the FCC will not allow a handful of corporations to gain the ability to dictate freedom of expression on their own terms.

—Alexander Callaghan, Melbourne, FL

One group, Broadband for America, told the FCC that they "categorically reject" any attempts to make broadband Internet a public utility, which would subject it to more regulations to make sure the companies play fair, and who wants that? So who's in this group? Well, let's see: the CEO of AT&T, the CEO of Comcast, the president of Cox Communications, the president of the NTCA, and, last but not least, the CEO of Verizon, among others. This group isn't representative of the average American. Any opinion that group shares should note that.

—Louis Demella, Santa Fe, NM

Just like the last 2 times we proved that the people want a free and neutral internet, we still want that... All cable and broadband carriers should be regulated utilities that are forced to abide by net neutrality.

—John Donovan, LAS VEGAS, NV

You stupid fucks want everything your constituents have don't you?? You have no idea the hell you would be unleashing on yourself FOR THE REST OF YOUR HORRID LIVES if you bring an end to net neutrality. Give the little guys (99% of us) the dirt road and only the dirt road to play on. See how fast we get bored of it and find more pleasurable outlets, such as torching any property you own, destroying your personal life, or maybe we'd REALLY hit you where it hurts, and just skip the web altogether.....there's a pirate for every age, and sometimes they win. Promises aside, do you really want to open the gates to businesses to charge whatever they feel like for a product/service when they have a monopoly on the market....or to charge multiple times for a singular product or service? You'd be looking at the worst recession ever...followed by the swiftest revolution. Those who would police others only have that power as long as we allow them to. Unite enough people in hatred of a person or thing, and NOTHING will stop them

—Donald Ready, sudlersville, MD

I work at a non-profit, and we use our website to provide information and resources to our members. We don't have extra money in the budget to pay extra money just to make sure we can deliver our resources with the same speed as bigger for-profit corporations. For this reason, we MUST keep net neutrality.

—Ashleigh McFadden, Arlington, VA

FCC - you must protect Net Neutrality for the future of small business! The ISPs don't need to get richer, nor can any corporation be given this kind of arbitrary power!

—Stephen Westhoven, Mount Laurel, NJ

96% of Americans have access to fewer than 2 internet providers--a monopoly to say the least. The abolition of Net Neutrality is, at best, an attack on Americans' freedom of choice, and, at worst, anti-Capitalist.

—Stephen Bands, Baltimore, MD

Net Neutrality protects freedom of speech. Ending net neutrality would mean that those who couldn't pay for their sites to be on the 'fast lane' end up getting little to no web traffic, effectively quashing their ability to use this increasingly prevalent form of communication. This could also interfere with people's abilities to earn a living -it is increasingly common to search & apply for jobs online, especially for those just starting out, and there are also a great number of people who earn their living online. In addition, it has the potential to be flat-out dangerous, preventing people from accessing information that may be medically necessary in a timely fashion. It would also allow them to further suppress any and all competition. We MUST protect Net Neutrality; the proposed rules do not do that, therefore they must be changed.

—Michelle McLaren, Charlotte, NC

Making billionaires billionaire-ier should never take precedence over the common good. I respect and support big businesses. I understand that people had to work hard to make the fortunes they have. But ending Net Neutrality would be tantamount to hoarding every tree in the world and only selling paper to whomever pays the most. It's severely limiting the freedom of speech of the human race. Forcing citizens and businesses to pay more for a service they're already subscribed to is extortion.

—Chris Watson, Cuyahoga Falls, OH

if you take away net neutrality, you basically set us back twenty years. there's so much the internet has done to provide the average person a platform to speak his or her opinion. don't be evil. you're being greedy and evil. leave net neutrality alone. it's the one great thing we've got going for us these days.

—Chris, new orleans, LA

Net Neutrality is important because it means we, the people, still have some sort of a voice. The only people in this country who really have a voice aren't people at all, they're the corporations and more and more we're losing our humanity to these giant entities that have taken over politics, basic needs, and yes, the internet. Without regulation giant companies will be able to control what you see and if there is a dissenting voice, they'll be able to stifle it with no real repercussions. It's ridiculous. Please, keep the net neutral.

—Mr. Benjamin Roesler, minneapolis, MN

everybody should have an equal chance to make their voice heard on the internet

—Stephanie Bingham, Ankeny, IA

The internet is a wealth of free information, learning opportunities, fun, and freedom. It's been a huge boon to me not only as a student but as a thinking individual. In this modern age of vast technological expanse and limitless possibilities, the internet remains a strong tool as a catalogue and guide. If the cable companies were to charge us for public use to gather information and share ideas publically, is that not a fundamental violation of rights that we hold dear for every person on this planet? Please don't let greedy executives tolling large sums of cash on fake groups and lobbyists decide the future of the internet.

—Shane Barner, New Orleans, LA

Dear FCC, Out of curiosity, how ISN'T a broadband carrier a common carrier? How is this not a utility like telephones? Stop being bribed, and do the right thing.

—Abby Johnson, Lansdale, PA

We live in an age where internet is as vital a utility for Americans as a way to express themselves, innovate, access ideas and communicate with others. It is as necessary in the world today as access to clean water, consistent and dependable power and fuel for heating and commuting in order to live in today's society. Allowing a two tiered system will hurt the growth of our nation, stifle innovation from our entrepreneurs, and hamstring those with fewer means.

—Tom Albani, Stow, OH

Don't take away net neutrality. People with lots of money tell the people with not a lot of money (like me) that I have to give them more money for things I enjoy. I don't have cable or satellite, I can only afford internet at home. It's my main source of entertainment when I get home from working a 10 hour shift. If I had to pay more or be forced to use slower speeds, I would probably not have the internet at all. In my case, net neutrality would drive me away from the internet and the things I like, and help no one. Net neutrality needs to happen

—Shaun Taylor, Chicago, IL

Net neutrality is important because at its core, the internet is knowledge and information. It is the most complete collection of all knowledge mankind has ever assembled, and if you do away with net neutrality, and allow companies like Comcast and Verizon to decide who gets faster and easier access to that wealth of information based on how much money they pay, you are taking away a basic human right. The right to be informed, the right to seek and gain knowledge, and to grow and better yourself as a person. If you do away with net neutrality, you are silently condemning the vast majority to a world where knowledge is locked behind a door that most can't afford to open. You're allowing a handful of individuals to run this, a newly interconnected and digital world. If the proposal is that of a fast lane and slow lane on the metaphorical road that is the internet, doing away with net neutrality will allow Comcast and Verizon to be the bandits on the side of that road, taking what they want from who they want. Please, don't let that happen. Thank you.

—Joe Morrow, Oskaloosa, IA

Allowing ISPs to charge companies for fast loading times is, in spirit, a violation of freedom of speech; you're allowing people to pay for their content to be seen and their opinions to be heard. This is very alarming to those of us who do a lot of our communication online but lack the resources to pay for it. Please, make broadband a public utility.

—Autumn Rogers, Salt Lake City, UT

The preservation of what is left of Net Neutrality (RE: Netflix v Comcast) is incredibly important because the internet has become more than a novelty or diversion. Since its creation, the internet as a whole has evolved into a multifaceted creature that has more uses than simple entertainment and leisure. It is a primary source of data and research for students of all ages, it provides an invaluable market share for even the smallest of businesses, and it allows socializing and connectivity to anyone across the globe. The internet has become a necessity for most people and yet it is still treated as a luxury. Maintaining, and hopefully, increasing the scope of Net Neutrality is an incredibly important aspect of modern life and one that should not be changed or amended.

—Robert D'Alimonte, Belleville, MI

Besides obvious convenience factors, net neutrality is important to literally every business with a website. Ending it will have severe economic repercussions that we cannot even fathom at this point in time.

—April Gamboa, Whittier, CA

Net Neutrality is an important feature of consumer protection in the modern age and should not be taken apart.

—Sean Rogers, Lucas, TX

Net Neutrality is important to me because of what it is: Neutral. The fact that the FCC chairman wants to implement this clearly idiotic plan to kill Net Neutrality just speaks volumes about how little personal freedoms mean to him, and to the FCC in general. Cable companies DO NOT rule people. Stop acting like they do. It's childish and quite honestly really, REALLY pathetic. You're a pathetic man, Tom Wheeler. At least try to have some dignity and stop this 'plan' you're pushing.

—Aaron, New Castle, IN

Just another form of subversive racism and classism.

—Jamila, Mount Vernon, NY

I'll keep this short and simple. The free Internet has been around for most of my life. I literally saw it become the incredibly important 'entity' that is today, to our economy, our ability to connect to others and express ourselves, to the development of our world in general. If net neutrality is destroyed, I and many millions, if not billions, of people would not or could not have a use for the net. All to make a handful of people richer or more powerful? No thank you. Protect net neutrality. Make it a public utility!! Also, stop both the Comcast and AT&T mergers.... Even with net neutrality safe, those mergers would still pose a huge threat to the economy and our freedom. Thank you.

—Shaun Kantz, McKees Rocks, PA

Imagine if we divided our nation's highways into "regular" and "livery only" lanes (without widening or otherwise physically adding road space), such that only paid drivers could travel on those lanes. Also, the livery companies have been given full control on how large those lanes were (i.e. how many "regular" lanes get turned into "livery" lanes. What would happen is that those who could afford to hire cars would be able to travel much faster with much less traffic at the expense of those who could not. Each lane converted into "livery only" results in non-livery vehicles being compressed into fewer lanes, resulting in much slower traffic. This is what a loss of net neutrality would mean to the internet. For any given section of internet backbone, there is an absolute maximum amount of traffic that can flow in a given time. (The only way around this is to change the backbone infrastructure.) The only way that an ISP can possibly give faster service to one user is to take that service AWAY from EVERY other user. This is not a case of giving some internet users faster, "premiere" service while letting everyone else have "regular" service. If some get faster service, EVERYONE else will have slower service. This benefits no one except for the ISPs and those that can afford the service. The ISPs want to be able to regulate internet flow based on how much they are paid for the "premiere" service. They are not arguing that they want the power to regulate flow based on consumption or need. (In fact, there is much anecdotal evidence that they already do the exact opposite, that the ISPs and cellular companies regularly DECREASE the connection speeds of their highest users to maintain their cost per user. In today's society, a website's success, and thus how much exposure their content (or "speech") is heard, is strongly related to how well the site handles traffic. Sites that are slow to load are often ignored in favor of those that load quickly. This means that without net neutrality, a few select entities (our internet is handled by only a handful of companies) can control who gets heard, and how much, based solely on their wealth. So in addition to giving an unequal share of what should be a public trust to those that can afford it, at the expense of those that cannot, any exploitation of the power that comes with a loss of net neutrality is, pretty much by definition, a violation of SOMEONE's free speech. Most likely, the free speech of the people who MOST NEED THAT PROTECTION.

—Alan Meisler, Somerville, MA

A few months ago, the FCC was falling all over itself to tell us how much in favor of Net Neutrality....and now they're doing a complete 180! God forbid the FCC let anyone see a boob or hear a naughty word, but when money bloated corporations want to take away our free speech and access to an essential utility, well, that's just fine with them! I can't believe that I actually used to think that I lived in a country where the government served the best interests of the people (and not just the people with the biggest bank accounts), but this horrific farce of legislation has once and for all proved me wrong. Thanks a lot, FCC, for so bravely surrendering in the face of evil!

—Evan McCusker, New Market, MD

I want the FCC to classify broadband Access as a Title II telecommunications service. Under the Communications Act, this is like a telephone call, between the people involved, NOT something Internet Service Providers should get involved in. Internet Service Providers are hired to move the information, not mess with it. I support Title II.

—Francis Gallagher, Lansdale, PA

Please don't hand the free and open Internet into the ruinous mitts of telecommunication corporations.

—John Doe, Hometown, NY

Dear FCC. Net Neutrality is very important to me. IF you allow communication companies to dictate which websites are fast and which are slow it will seriously damage free speech in this country. You would effectively give control of the internet to these companies, and if one of them decided they did not like certain websites they could limit its traffic and prevent users from viewing it reasonably. Please do not let them decide who gets to speak out on the internet and who does not. The internet should be a public utility available to all citizens of the US that can be used to promote free speech.

—Dan Burgett, Woodbridge, VA

As a consumer, I really heavily on companies born in Silicon Valley. An end to net neutrality would make it impossible for most internet start-ups to compete with established players or competitors owned by ISPs. This wouldn't just hurt America, it would also hurt people around the world who currently benefit from American innovation. That is why I would urge you to protect net neutrality against profiteering and monopolist cable companies.

—Callum Davis, Edinburgh,

We must protect net neutrality in order to stop these companies from forming a monopoly and forcing out the sites they don't agree with. Would you allow an electric company to charge more for business they don't agree with? Or a water company? It simply doesn't make sense. Even a retail store would be in court quickly if they tried charging more for their products for people they didn't like. The internet is no different. People are still people and businesses are still businesses on the internet.

—Zachary B. Orent, Newmarket, NH

The striking down of Net Neutrality is a moral wrong. It's blatantly putting corporate interests ahead of the interests of the nation, the economy, and the people. Allowing huge corporations to control who gets a reasonable connection speed hampers the free exchange of ideas and harms the free market as the biggest businesses now have yet another tool to shut down the competition. Also of note is that the idea that preventing ISPs from controlling other peoples free speech online is somehow infringing on their free speech is laughable. To put it simply: the death of Net Neutrality is pretty awful for everyone but the few who directly benefit. Do the right thing and preserve a free internet. Thank you.

—Nathan Juntunen, Blaine, MN

The primary reason the Internet has changed the reality of communication in the world is that it has given "the little guy" a voice. As a nation that prides itself on its protection of the right to free speech, the Internet allows nearly anyone the chance to publish their information in a manner that the entire world can find and see it. Once providers of the services that connect us to the Internet have the capability to charge content providers for "fast lanes", that effectively eliminates the ability for those with fewer funds will have the ability to have their voice heard. To preserve our the freedom of expression for all citizens, Net Neutrality must be preserved, and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) must be classified as common carriers.

—Eric C. Willman, Brownsburg, IN

Because ISPs already have virtual monopolies, have reduced investment in improving their own networks, and want to become true monopolies with no responsibilities toward their customers. We saw this during the Ma Bell era, we shouldn't have to go through it again. And we shouldn't kill the potential for innovation just so larger companies can capture more market share and snuff out any potential for competitive markets.

—Matthew Noggle, Chicago, IL

Net Neutrality is the basis for our economic growth. Even though the future is marching in lockstep with out oligarchic masters, we, the people, need a place where the playing field is level and everyone has a fair shot.

—Myra Fishburn, Bowling Green, KY

The start-up business I work for gets the majority of its sales from the internet, and allowing providers to dictate what sites have faster load times would put us at a severe disadvantage compared to many of the large companies we compete with. The function of the internet has become one of major commerce, and I believe it should be treated as a public utility to ensure fair access for everyone.

—Chris, bryan, TX

Net Neutrality is important to me because I run several small websites that I would not be able to run should my internet need to be upgraded to "premium" status. As an independent web developer, I cannot manage this.

—Harrison Lewis, san diego, CA

The web needs to remain free. Don't let net neutrality die.

—Craig McKee, Peach Springs, AZ

The internet is the major platform of free speech in the world today. Allowing companies to control it would be devastating to the American way of life.

—Brian Davis, Medford, OR

Maintain net neutrality! Keep the internet open and equal opportunity for all. Don't let the internet be controlled by providers.

—Kristen Fitzpatrick, Tigard, OR

I have heard your excuse that the abolition of net neutrality would benefit the disabled. As a disabled person, I would like to tell you that your logic is flawed bullshit, and that it's a weak excuse. If you are going to tell us something you do is going to help us, at least make it more believable. Websites that specifically cater to the disabled going faster than the rest will not mean a flying fuck to me, because I don't go to those websites. Who does go to those websites regularly? We do the same things online as everyone else, and by slowing all that down and speeding everything else up, you are hurting us as much as everyone else. Don't even try to pretend it's not so you can line your big fat wallets even more than you already do. At least be honest when you try to fuck us over for profit, or come up with better lies. Also, net neutrality is important. There are many groups out there that are already discriminated against in ways outside of, and on the internet. But, they can all use the internet the same way as everyone else. If you put something into affect to change that, then you may, actually, almost certainly will, end up giving people the ability to discriminate against people in a whole new way, by disallowing them the internet, which, in our modern society, can effectively mean silencing those groups. And I'm not talking about any specific group of people. It could be anyone whom the person in charge of deciding who doesn't get the fast track, or even gets slower than before, has a prejudice against, and everyone is prejudiced against someone, don't even pretend that's not true. Back to the disability thing before, what if the person in control doesn't like disabled people? Do you really think they would give them faster internet? Turn it around. Maybe the control person was disabled, and was bitter at non-disabled people. That person may give everyone else, including you and your family, if you have one, slower internet. That doesn't scare you though. It's slow internet, who cares? Until you are sitting there for hours, trying to do one goddamn thing, and the internet is not supporting it because it is not on the list of important sites. Also, some of the most visited sites are simply comedy sites meant to entertain. The sites can't afford to pay extra to be on the fast track, which means they will all load really slow. This will mean less traffic, because people are impatient, and these sites will go down eventually. And if that was the only thing someone did on- the internet, they will stop paying for it. You also have to think about what a bad idea this could be for you. I know of many people who would protest completely. **THEY WOULD STOP BUYING YOUR PRODUCT. YOU WOULD LOSE MONEY. PEOPLE WOULD STOP WATCHING TV AND PLAYING ON THE INTERNET AND MAYBE ACTUALLY GO OUTSIDE FOR ONCE.** You know, that may actually be a good idea. Continue on.

—Chance, Florence, AL

America is becoming more and more of a joke to the rest of the world. Giving into lobbyists to abandon net neutrality isn't going to help your 'world leader' status - just make it weaker.

—Matthew Magnus, Grande Cache,

<http://www.cracked.com/quick-fixes/5-absurd-cable-company-ex-cuses-killing-internet/> Read this. It's all you need to know about why cable companies are straight up evil and net neutrality needs to be defended at all costs.

—Joe White, Folsom, CA

Let's not start another have vs. have not war for no reason than to provide further wealth for those who don't need it. Keep the Internet open and free.

—Dan Darbandi, Brooklyn, NY

Letting internet service providers dictate the speed internet services are delivered based upon how much other corporations, Small businesses, and various others pay them is wrong. Customers already pay ISPs a monthly fee to access the internet, making the various websites the customers are trying to access pay more money so their sites can be accessed at a normal speed by those customers is moronic and the FCC should ensure that never happens

—Casey Evers, Tulsa, OK

Letting internet service providers dictate the speed internet services are delivered based upon how much other corporations, Small businesses, and various others pay them is wrong. Customers already pay ISPs a monthly fee to access the internet, making the various websites the customers are trying to access pay more money so their sites can be accessed at a normal speed by those customers is moronic and the FCC should ensure that never happens

—Casey Evers, Tulsa, OK

The reasons why net neutrality is important to me can best be categorized as the following: fear the present trajectory towards telecom oligopoly and the further erosion of democratic society, and fear of the accidental future destruction of the greatest invention of humanity in the last fifty years. The present fear is easily understood by anyone who cares to try (or, indeed, do anything other than bury their heads in the sand). As of 2013, 67% of all Americans have access to two or less internet service providers. Of the ones available to the average citizen, the majority are massive, corporate juggernauts with essentially zero difference from one another in terms of prices, quality of service provided, business structure, or investment in overall broadband capacity from year to year. This, by itself, is not the end of the world.

Telecommunications is a naturally monopolistic/oligopolistic market, largely because the infrastructure required to do business properly is cost-prohibitive and provides barriers to market entry. Up until this point, net neutrality has served as an excellent barrier against a positive oligopoly becoming a negative one, by forcing these gigantic corporations to respect the general welfare of those that they provide service for and maintain the commercially (and technologically) nurturing atmosphere which has been a basic attribute of the World Wide Web since its inception. Removing net neutrality laws will allow telecommunications companies to reduce the freedoms associated with both operating and visiting websites, and allow the telecom companies to profit from the channeling of web traffic into a small number of large, popular websites at the expense of smaller websites attempting to grow. Imagine where the world would be today if, eight years ago, MySpace had possessed the ability to pay for faster speeds than Facebook, essentially killing the budding social media site before it had the chance to grow and change society as we know it. The fear for the future, while less likely to be realized or heard, is this: The internet, in its current, neutral form, may well represent the next vital stage in human evolution. In "The Dragons of Eden", by the late Carl Sagan, the topic of human storage of knowledge is discussed. Sagan talks about the fact that human beings surpassed all other animals in the history of the planet by making the jump from storing memories inside the mind (passing information along from generation to generation anecdotally, a flawed and inefficient system at best) to being able to (relatively permanently) store information outside of the human mind via writing. Writing allowed the human race to pass information along to future generations without any significant loss of insight, effectively allowing us to build on the work of our predecessors and further expand the pool of intellectual discovery by giving us a baseline of information larger than our predecessors had. The internet could represent (and, indeed, there is much evidence to suggest that it already does represent) the next stage in human storage of information: it allows us to not just store knowledge outside of our own brains, but also make it readily available to effectively every person on the planet. The internet today is still in its early stages. It is perfectly conceivable to predict that, if it is maintained as is (continuing to promote the growth of ideas and adventurous new businesses), it could eventually grow into an entity which not just gives every person on the planet access to all information, but also makes that information easier to process rapidly, dramatically benefiting the human race by making the growth of information more exponential than linear. Killing net neutrality would also kill this possibility; if a telecom company can decide which websites get which speeds, they will have the ability to basically block websites at their own discretion, for reasons known only to them. They will be able to eliminate the global access to free information, if they so choose. The end of net neutrality will signal the end of real innovation stemming from the internet. For these reasons, I wholeheartedly implore the FCC to rethink ending net neutrality. It is not often that an organization has the ability to vote "Yes" or "No" on the concentration of wealth and power, the freedom to take business risks on a level playing field, or the evolution of our species. The FCC, because of the massive growth in importance of telecommunications over the past thirty years, has been placed in a position to vote on these exact issues. I, as a citizen of the United States and of the world, ask the FCC to vote wisely, and to know that their vote will have huge direct and indirect consequences for the overwhelming majority of the people who their organization was set up to protect in the first place.

—Adam Marchesseault, Burlington, VT

Many cable companies areas already have monopolies in all aspects but name in many areas, including my hometown. They already charge too much for inferior service and offer few if any choices in service. Allowing them freedom to slow down services at their discretion is akin to shakedowns or roadblocks: unless someone pays them extra for something they're already paying for, the service will be slowed or made less efficient. This goes against good capitalistic competition and market functions and would be disastrous for small businesses, non-profits, news agencies (especially those with whom these ISPs disagree), and average citizens that don't have the money to make their sites part of the "fast lanes" like the already established companies and agencies.

—Walker Reynolds, Bowling Green, OH

I don't want massive corporations artificially inflating the cost of internet access or slowing down sites that I may use. The internet is an amazing medium for everyone to use and benefit from and should be regulated by our government, not be controlled by corporations.

—Michael Moyer, North Canton, OH

Please inforce net neutrality! A free and open internet is more important now then it has ever been. Ending net neutrality will stop innovation and end up hurting end users. Please classify the internet as a public utility!

—David S Thrasher, redwood city, CA

Without Net Neutrality, middle class consumers, such as myself, will be at the mercy of cable companies and internet service providers. We will most definitely be overcharged for "faster" service. Please reconsider and and reclassify ISPs as common carriers.

—Joe Niemann, Katy, TX

Free flow of information leads to better industry and a stronger nation.

—Matt McKinney, Buda, TX

Mainstream media is already controlled by various corporate interests. The internet is the only truly level playing field we have left. Anyone can find an audience, because everyone's data is equal. Also, our society as a whole is more and more dependent on the internet. Consider looking for a job. More and more postings are only available online. Many companies will only accept an online application. In Wisconsin, you cannot collect unemployment unless you are registered on a state job search board, which means you also need a valid email address with regular access to it. If you allow the cable companies to merge into even larger monopolies and ignore laws meant to protect consumers, then there will never be improvement. There will be vast stretches of the country with no reliable internet, and huge groups of people being exploited and silenced. Without firm, common sense regulations, these companies will have no incentive to innovate. No reason to improve their services. You will be rewarding them for charging more money for less work. We need complete, fair, and improving internet access as a nation. Otherwise we will not only further divide our own citizens between the "haves" and "have nots," we will start falling further and further behind the rest of the developed world.

—Amy Dee, Madison, WI

The internet has already become a utility. It is almost impossible to apply for a job without it, large amounts of businesses use it in order to receive needed services (my gas and electric utility company practically require online requests). Getting rid of Net Neutrality can do nothing but harm the country and the economy. Don't allow it to pass.

—Beau Davis, Paso Robles, CA

Stop selling the American people out to big corporations that are giving you kickbacks. We know that you (Wheeler) are in the pocket of these companies. Classify ISPs as common carriers, do your job and serve the public.

—Jonathan Applegate, Louisville, KY

I am wholeheartedly against the end of Net Neutrality. Our free Internet has been one of the few stable institutions this country has had in close to a decade and the death of it would be a disgrace, as well as yet another blow to our still fragile economy. I think if the major cable companies want to keep their profit margins up, they should provide better service to their customers, instead of steamrolling one of the last great inventions of our society.

—Dean W Spencer, Stockton, MO

FCC, you have got to protect Net Neutrality. The cable companies that are trying to kill it (and let's not sugar-coat, that's what's going on here) aren't interested in technological innovation or making the world a better place. They are interested in gigantic wads of cash, which will ultimately come out of the pockets, not of the companies they want to charge more, but of the customers who pay for those services. What they want is greedy at an almost cartoon-supervillain level. Stop them. Do everyone (except them) a favor and reclassify ISPs as common carriers. It's the right thing to do.

—Jeffrey Eernisse, Houston, TX

We are a country for people by the people, not by faceless corporations. Stop filling your pockets with money from comcast and do your damn jobs. Any other industry/occupation, congress would have been fired a thousand times over for incompetence, negligence, and insubordination. It is the governments job to protect free speech, not to outsource it to corporations.

—Andy Nam, mill creek, WA

I am a college student in California and net neutrality is something of paramount importance to me personally. The internet has come to be an incredible resource to stay up to date on the latest in scientific news, research for any number of projects I have had to work on, and it has been a way to communicate with a world that is increasingly interconnected on a personal level. To allow companies to treat information as a commodity that can be controlled cuts me off either directly or indirectly from not only the source of information but from a large number of personal relationships. If Microsoft and Comcast were to come into conflict and a drop in their speed were to happen at around the same time (much like what happened to Netflix), I could very well be cut off from the ability to maintain personal relationships because of this. This is due to the slow-down affecting the Skype program. Skype relies on stable, relatively fast internet, to maintain calls of any decent size. I have friends who I speak to on a regular basis in Canada, New Zealand, England, and the Netherlands on a regular basis so this stability becomes important. Without this ability I could be left largely unable to talk to them for months at a time because of an argument in a boardroom over costs and profits. There is also the issue that I sometimes need relatively obscure websites for research purposes. A science news site or sites containing information that would aid in the writing of a paper or studying for an exam in physics may not have the ability to pay for the internet fast lane and thus be slowed down. This lessens my own ability to find necessary information in a time not just in the world, but at a time in my life where this information is utterly crucial to long term viability. If net neutrality is broken, ISPs will act as they have done in the past. Evidence points that if these groups can slow down a website during negotiations they most certainly will. If this is allowed, then not only can the companies being slowed be made to hurt, but so too will the lives of those who use services that don't just stream entertainment. It can and will hurt those who use the internet for personal relationships and to aid them in achieving their goals.

—Jameson Miller, Brentwood, CA

We need net neutrality in order to ensure that the internet remains the invaluable educational tool that it is. Obviously regulations are something that we need but allowing the cable companies to charge for more bandwidth while throttling those who don't pay is outlandish and a threat to our way of life. Please take into consideration the magnitude of this decision and make the right one and not the one that makes you rich.

—Josh Ross, Middletown, OH

Net neutrality is important because it's exactly what the cable companies don't want. While that may sound sarcastic (and it is), we are talking about corporations who have put their profits before fairness time and time again. These are the same groups who have kept prices high while speeds remain low (on a world scale) through collusion. Now, they are merging to create regionalized monopolies where such things as service and competition are a shrug and a middle finger away. Most importantly, as John Oliver has pointed out, Wheeler is a former lobbyist for Comcast. Is there any greater conflict of interest? Is anyone surprised that he has broached a criminal breach of trust? (For which he should be on trial. He should certainly lose his job. In fact, this should be the moment where the American government realizes what a complete disaster our system of internet is, which in turn should lead to federal investigations and prosecutions for oligopoly.) These people deserve a place in history as traitors. If they are all removed, good riddance.

—Lukas Dahlberg, Portland, OR

Dear FCC, Please reclassify ISPs as common carriers. ISPs say they will be fair and reasonable. They say that the service discrimination will be between a "fast lane" and a "hyper-speed lane" rather than between "fast lane" and a "slow lane." They say they won't show bias to websites on the basis of their concordance with the ISP's views or of their business relations. They say the data caps will be unnoticeable. But lies and loopholes are a firm's favorite way to make money. Don't trust businesses to play by the rules or work toward the common good. There's nothing wrong with admitting a mistake and going back on a decision. It won't make you look stupid; in fact, it takes true wisdom to admit that one was wrong. Please stop ISPs from killing net neutrality.

—Baylee Lewandowski, New Port Richey, FL

Right now, the internet basically works for everyone, with the exception of those who live in countries where their governments practice extensive censorship. In the US, the greatest censorship comes not from the government but from the corporate sector. Why would you hand power over to a group whose motivations are worse than China's when it comes to freedom of the American people as whole? Throw out your rules and reclassify ISPs as common carriers.

—Mark Steuart, Tacoma, WA

These purported rules would create online consortium-based monopolies the likes of which have not been seen since the beginnings of the industrial age. This would absolutely crush freedom and innovation, and only serve to line the pockets of companies with a horrid track record in protecting consumers. These new rules cannot be allowed to go into effect.

—Justin McLaughlin, Muskego, WI

Net Neutrality is one of the most important aspects of the internet, along with anonymity and freedom.

—Brian Nash, Jupiter, FL

The internet is a bastion of free speech and information. Not all that speech is good and not all the information is correct but it is out there for anyone to find. Ending Net Neutrality means that only those who can afford it get their information out there. The end of Net Neutrality would essentially censor the internet. This violates the right to free speech and sounds a bit too much like the work of the Thought Police for me.

—JoAna Morin, Corpus Christi, TX

Please leave the internet as it is today. It is the only form of communication that allows everyone to connect in a reasonable fashion at a reasonable cost. Giving internet providers such discriminating power will further push this country and the world toward rebellion of the rich running every thing. Lets leave a small piece of freedom available for all.

—Naoma Hudson, Grain Valley, MO

Net Neutrality to be in place is very important to myself, my community, and my country. I teach at a college and many Internet links that help students are presently only possible because of net neutrality. Students have access to education, are able to access otherwise unaffordable materials, and gain in their knowledge. This education leads to a more informed and educated student who will then become a voter, a consumer, a jury member, and a contributor for all of us.

—Thomas Fuschetto, McAllen, TX

The internet should be treated as a utility like any other, such as water or electricity. Reclassify ISPs as common carriers!

—Matt Yetner, Somerville, MA

To whomever reads this, I know I have no power to convince you of my opinion. I don't have any leverage in this conversation, I do not vote for you, I do not pay you, I do not send expensive lobbyists to argue in front of you. I can only beg, and hope you have the empathy to listen. There is already a startling and depressing amount of control given to cable companies over the internet. In many areas, there is only one internet service provider available, allowing them to charge whatever price they want and provide poor customer service. (Perhaps this is why Comcast is a two-time winner of the Worst Company in America contest? <http://consumerist.com/2014/04/08/congratulations-to-comcast-your-2014-worst-company-in-america/>) These monopolies are allowed to stand because competitors exist... in the next city over. And no, they won't provide you internet, you're out of their service range. Allowing the ISPs to decide which sites will or will not load is an unbelievable outrage. It's a protection racket. It's a violation of free speech, and a stifling of everything the internet stands for. Sites that cannot pay to be in the "fast lane" will be slowed into obscurity. Sites that the ISP does not approve of will be forced to pay. The internet itself is a gathering of every idea, thought, communication, and expression of people all over the world. Please don't kill it for the benefit of a CEO's pockets. I beg you to reconsider, because it's all I can do.

—Elizabeth Schueman, Cheney, WA

This is clearly another "rich get richer, poor get poorer" scenario. The internet is one of the last places where classism doesn't reign. There are still haves and have-nots (those who have internet access and those who don't), but why widen that rift? We should be spreading information more indiscriminately, not less.

—Brian Schwartz, Chino Hills, CA

The lack of regulation in this country is already a complete sham, the only thing saving the human race is the accountability accessed through the internet. If cable companies are allowed to slow or completely shut off traffic then there will be less accountability for the shady activities of corporations, governments, and criminal organizations. It is important that the government regulate the corporations, because when government doesn't regulate business the people suffer. Read any history book about the industrial age and you will see how business, when unregulated, kills people.

—John Gesse, Itasca, IL

Net Neutrality is fair. And the people who do not want it are the people looking to make a huge profit out of it. Cable companies. They are a monopoly that needs to be busted.

—David Hallam, Katy, TX

Watching the FCC muddle its way towards a possible end that only an elite few want and will add no benefit (and probably harm) the vast majority of people is the most daft, easily preventable failures of our government. I am not being hyperbolic here. I am serious. This is a threat to the basic tenets of our society. Additionally, if you compare the services, costs, and investment infrastructure of American internet vs the world, you can see that the United States is- to put it mildly- lacking. Removing Net Neutrality will only hamstring investments and stifle creativity and the ability for new ideas to succeed. This will make it less and less likely that the next big advancement will happen within American shores and continue a creeping process where we will fall more and more behind the rest of the world. Please do the right thing and keep Net Neutrality in place. I am positive that Net Neutrality is something history will look upon the same way we look upon the Renaissance- a step forward to enable the free exchange of ideas. I am begging you, please don't let this end.

—John Crowe, Santa Ana, CA

It means that I can read the websites I enjoy knowing the creators don't have to shill to the isp to not be black listed. More importantly it means that every where in our country will have internet access, I can move for my family, or job without worrying if I'll only have satellite coverage, or dsl with no ports. My mother lives in Morgan hill, a 30-45 minute drive from Apple headquarters in Cupertino and living that exact scenario. Only one option for highspeed internet in dsl and the hub is overloaded, so they call every day hoping someone cancelled their service so they'll have the option to sign up because they have no other option in for their home. Stop letting the companies pretend they aren't hurting people with their behavior, list them as public utilities.

—Krist Wilson, portland, OR

A business should not be able to determine what speech is permitted nor be allowed to prioritize the importance or availability of speech. Disabling net neutrality would permit such a scenario.

—Derek Heiland, redwood city, CA

If we are going to continue to live in a connected world, then the Internet MUST be treated as a utility. I pay way too much and get way too little from my cable provider (Comcast). Please do the job that the American citizens trust you to do and preserve Net Neutrality

—Clifford Winn, Eugene, OR

FCC will you allow this country to stay the Land of the Free, Home of the Brave? Or will we need to add the contingent of depends on what you Pay? You decide. Net Neutrality is important to the equal spread of information across all parties, no matter how big or how small. Don't let us become a society (at least more so a society) where the little guy's voice can't be heard on the tops of the mountains of cash of the rich.

—Matt Fairall, Orangevale, CA

I hope that you will consider the fact that net neutrality is a public good, and that removing its protections will benefit certain individuals unfairly, while harming the ability of others to remain competitive in the marketplace. There seems no good reason to remove this regulation, other than to benefit companies that already constitute the beginnings of a damaging monopoly. Thank you.

—David Wellington, Brooklyn, NY

I don't really like to be bossed around by some huge corporate entities.

—Ben O'Leary, Bridgewater, NJ

This is beyond ridiculous. Net neutrality is something that the american people should be deciding personally. Not Fucking Lobbyist in Washington D.C. who are essentially human goddamn bribes! Stop thinking about yourselves for a moment and for once do the right thing for the american people and leave it alone. We don't want your fancy little fast talking solutions here. And if you are so confident that it is what we need. let the american people vote on it directly.

—KC Burgos, williamsport, PA

Because the ability to access any and all information is what makes the internet so important. Preventing access to information shouldn't happen just because corporations can throw money at the FCC

—Zach Winston, Tucson, AZ

Cable companies already have a monopoly over entertainment. I pay for high speed internet (which is a joke) and I pay for Netflix. Comcast charges Netflix to deliver content to me as well. So now Netflix and me are paying for the same internet. And Comcast gets to earn twice as much. I have never had a cable company give me good service. Since they are monopolies, why would they have to? I thought government was supposed to work for the people, not large corporations. But isn't it always about the almighty dollar to all of you. The merger is a ridiculous idea and net neutrality needs to be preserved. We are a democracy, not a plutocracy. Even though I am beginning to have my doubts.

—Trish Thibodeau, Memphis, TN

American Policy on almost anything affects us north of the 49th in some way. American policy on the internet affects the world. Because of this I have a vested interest in your decisions. We are in an information and entertainment Golden Age. The single greatest factor of this is the internet. As soon as you crack open that door for ISPs to offer better or worse service depending on what people are able to or willing to pay you are threatening that. Putting the profit potential for these already successful companies ahead of the good a Neutral Net provides everyone would only be in the interest of those companies. This is obvious to everyone that is being honest about the situation. Please, please protect this vital aspect of our society and by extension, all of us. Thank you.

—Tom Bradford, Red Deer,

Net Neutrality is important because I value the first amendment. Freedom of speech isn't a suggestion, it's a mandate. The loss of Net Neutrality would permit affluent corporations to suppress the free speech of those less affluent. It's reminiscent of the Supreme Court's deplorable decision in the "Citizen's United" case. It is another example of corporations manipulating our government to suppress the representation of constituents for profit.

—K Black, Long Beach, CA

Dear FCC, Broadcasting companies have enough power over our Cable television. They can tell us what channels we have and don't and raise our price while offering us less. Imagine what they could do with that kind of power on the internet. Censorship is the first thing that comes to mind, jacking up prices for a service that has become totally important for employment, shopping, entertainment, and almost every part of life would give them a degree of control over every individual that is unheard of. Before, I could shut off my cable if I hated their rules, now, I need them because they control the internet. Don't let them have total power over it, please.

—Joseph Gasparro, Parsippany, NJ

Net neutrality is important to me because this country's government is supposed to exist for all it's citizens. When you take away everyone's ability to spread information and ideas, you fundamentally destroy the country it's founded on. America was not created so a non-human entity could line the pockets of it's fucked-up hivemind workers at the expense of everyone else's ability to disseminate and access information. Why do you CEOs think you need more money than any one person could spend in a lifetime? Remember, all of our graves are the same size.

—Neal Thompson, Kirksville, MO

To whom it may concern, The idea that allowing Internet Service Providers (hereby referred to as ISPs) such as Verizon, Comcast, AT&T, Time-Warner, etc. to charge extra for faster accessibility for consumers would be beneficial to the internet or the users of the internet is absolutely ludicrous. The growth of the internet and of the services it provides is linked directly to the freedom of its use. Websites like Twitter, Tumblr and Facebook all started off as inconsequential, little-known companies, and are now incredibly popular. The success of these websites would have been nearly impossible if they, upon their inception, had been forced to pay the exorbitant fees that the big ISPs are sure to charge. "Surely they could pay those fees now?" one might think, and that assumption would most likely be true. Those websites COULD feasibly pay for better accessibility. However, that is merely a result of those particular companies having grown relative large. Small, underfunded websites, personal projects and blogs, start-up companies and just about any other new venture on the internet would be undoubtedly squashed by the sheer weight of the ISPs' demands. Internet users are currently free to determine what they want to spend their time on the internet doing. If net neutrality is ended then we are no longer able to decide how we want to [effectively] spend our time online. Imagine for a moment that big name companies (i.e. Google, Microsoft, Netflix) were paying for better access. Anyone could log on and get to those websites as they might normally do now. Then, after a search on Google or after seeing a link to some other website they try to go somewhere on the internet that isn't paying extra. They'll have to wait. Who knows for how long, considering what the ISPs are currently looking to do (from my personal understanding) is to INTENTIONALLY slow connections. The speed at which we, as consumers, are currently able to access every website on the internet is about as fast as the ISPs are currently able to allow. This proposal, this brilliantly ignorant proposal, would not only undermine what the internet is, but would actually serve to set us back. This isn't about moving forward, regardless of what the people pushing money down everyone's throats say. If anything, this proposal will set us back. We are already on the road to regressing, and I see no alternative but to strike this proposal down. For all of us who have very little power to influence policy, for all of us who wait, hoping and praying that the right decisions get made, please think about the consequences of this proposal. The common consumer would not only see no benefit, and receive only a more segregated internet as compensation. I implore you, beg you, to please reconsider.

—Mason T. Howard, Winter Garden, FL

Net neutrality is incredibly important. Do you really want to have monopolies controlling even more? I don't. Ending net neutrality will kill any hope of getting better. Do you really want to pay \$800 for 10Mbit/s? FYI that is a standard package for Mediacom and it still delivers only at around 2Mbit/s. All of Europe has better internet than us. Don't let Europe get us on this ground as well. Help push back the encroaching Oligarchy threatening to send us spiraling into a fate worse than Communism. Don't give the monopoly of cable more power to abuse. Here is some informative links that will help prove points: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fpbOEoRrHyU> <http://www.cracked.com/quick-fixes/5-absurd-cable-company-ex-cuses-killing-internet/>

—A concerned citizen, N/A, NY

The Internet is one of the greatest creations of our age. It has enabled the wealth of all human knowledge to be accessed by all as opposed to an elite majority. It allows us unparalleled communicative ease, facilitates the freedom of expression in some of the most oppressive regimes in the world and even lets us see funny cats. This is a boon that should be available to all regardless of social stature and to sully it in such a way to essentially introduce a class hierarchy into it is tantamount to sacrilege. To deny people access to knowledge, the freedom to think for oneself and funny cats is an insult to all people is a disgusting act of nothing more than pure, unbridled avarice. Shame on you.

—Milo Rafferty, Stockton On Tees,

As a freelancer, my work depends on the internet. If costs go up, prices go up, prices that clients may not be willing to pay. The cable companies have battled innovation for too long. If they want to compete, they need to innovate like the rest instead of dumping money on lobbyists and fake citizen groups. They need to develop a new way to bring cable to the masses, the way the people want. But currently, they would rather fight their own customers than innovate and learn to compete differently. All this without mentioning community broadband and their constant efforts to crush it.

—Chris Harper, Savannah, GA

So that I cant get fucked over with my access to the WORLD WIDE WEB like these companies screw us with our wireless telephone internet services. They have no right to dictate something that cannot be a possession of any one individual. Keep the Net Neutral!

—Alexander Paul Medeiros, smith st, MA

Net neutrality should be law and cable/internet corporations should be regulated like a utility because broadcast TV is a much smaller part of where americans get their news and important information. If net neutrality is gone then only the websites that huge corporations believe should be seen will be seen, meaning that money will rule what information is seen so anyone with large amounts of money can lie and no one will know because the voices of truth will be silenced. Internet should be regulated as a utility because the importance of internet is rising everyday, and for a lot of homes internet and cell phones have totally replaced landline phones which have all but disappeared. Please regulate internet as a utility and protect net neutrality for all americans.

—Benjamin Bohan, Battle Creek, MI

I don't want my Internet company in charge of what websites remain functional, based on payment.m

—Erik Lewis, Hamburg, PA

Every single person in America, regardless of political affiliation, race, creed, gender, or class, has more or less unanimously declared net neutrality important to keep. Excluding the CEOs of the companies that stand to benefit the most, of course. You know what the right thing to do is. Don't let the country down. Please.

—Michael Futch, crawfordsville, IN

I am an adjunct writing instructor and a tutor for struggling students. A good portion of my teaching and tutoring is done online, both through an online tutoring service and through my own institution. Access to fast, reliable, and stable Internet is a must for me to be able to reach my students whenever they contact me. I am constantly updating our course web pages, emailing students feedback, grading papers, and myriad other tasks that cannot be accomplished when the Internet is unresponsive. Losing Net Neutrality would damage my students' access to the class pages, hurt their ability to contact me at a moment's notice, and disrupt the learning environment I have tried so hard to create. Please do not do away with Net Neutrality and allow for a two-tier internet service provision. Many students at the community college where I teach are already under heavy disadvantages; don't act further against their education!

—Jennifer Cuddeback Coulter, Waterloo, IA

I support net neutrality because the internet is the current and future means of communication, mankind's greatest invested communication tool. I also want to start my own online retailer, which would provide American jobs, and pay American taxes. However, if Net Neutrality is killed, Comcast, COX, Time Warner, AT&T, Verizon, and others can all tell me I need to pay for "fast lane" access, so their customers can access my website at anything faster than a crawl, so I actually get business. If you think that since my goal is to start a business (and compete with the "big guys") I am not worthy, consider the scenario in which I pay for internet, and my parents (who lives 1000 miles away) have a basic internet service from another provider. Without net neutrality, our ISP's could claim we needed to pay more to be actually able to skype together at a reasonable quality. Global citizens deserve to be able to make websites, use the internet, and communicate on a level playing field—not one stacked in the favor of the behemoths! Please don't break the free internet! Internet is now a UTILITY even if not classified as such. If a phone company charged extra for personal calls instead of just calling corporations, that would be illegal! So why is it legal in the internet? Classify ISP's as common carriers. They are already considered the worst companies in america by orders of magnitude, allowing them to push the government over in order to screw over its citizens is insane and unamerican. Erik Nelson A Colorado Citizen.

—Erik Nelson, Broomfield, CO

Because it's my freedom alright please calm down

—Wyatt Crouse, Farmington, NM

The incentives provided in a free market make people actively compete and pursue their interests. When certain other, established groups start out with preferential treatment it discourages those new players from entering the competition. Having fewer competitors quickly removes much of the incentives, and therefore lowers the introduction of the new perspectives and innovations that make the free market successful in the first place. In short, eliminating net neutrality will create an unhealthy market.

—David Johnson, West Roxbury, MA

If the United States was founded on the belief in Equality, and a civil war, civil rights movement, and many other national tragedies have the defined United States history as one dedicated to preserving and enhancing Equality, then to destroy Net Neutrality is to spit in the face of every decent United States citizen that has fought for Equality and Freedom. If the FCC destroys Net Neutrality, then they are the true domestic terrorists and threat to the American people.

—Jared Long, Elgin, IL

You know its bad when Brazil is showing the US up when it comes to freedom, and protection of Net Neutrality.

—Michael Carter, ORANGE BEACH, AL

We're doomed. Go ahead and get rid of neutrality. There isn't a bright future for us anymore. Freedom reigned and now it is being reigned in. I can think of something every person on the planet would want, but I am not a corporation so I could never get it to everyone. Therefore we care about what the corporations want...but they do not eat...they do not breath...they are not human...and they will sell us the pieces of our once great society as they break it down into easy to swallow morsels until we have cannibalized our greatest achievements. This is why we can't have nice things.

—Andrew, middlesex, NJ

Net neutrality must remain, otherwise it will open the door for ISPs to begin charging websites extra for faster speeds and if the websites don't pay, then the ISPs will be able to slow their speeds to a crawl. Thereby forcing websites to pay more to the ISPs which will force websites like Netflix to charge more for their services. If net neutrality is allowed to die the American people will be the ones suffering, and do you want to be the cause of that?

—Stephen Berry, Columbia, MS

Lobbyists are ruining this country, and large corporations are systemically running roughshod over individuals. The government and it's agencies are supposed to look out for the individuals, so I implore you: please, ensure the continued net neutrality rules, and rid this country of lobbying and corporate interests.

—Joseph Wilson, perryville, AR

Net Neutrality is what made the internet great. It's truly one of the last FREE exchanges of information and we need to keep it that way. Don't let the telcoms destroy one of mankind's greatest inventions. Because they will. This country has already taken so much of the voice of the people (and given it to corporations). DO NOT LET THEM TAKE THE LAST THING WE HAVE!

—Andy Stockdale, AUBURN, WA

Already my cable and internet prices are steep, and my service substandard. Allowing big corporations to decide which websites are fast and which are not is awful - I'll end up paying even higher prices for even less service, and I'm already getting the short end of the stick. The companies want to protect their massive incomes. I want to protect my measly income. I get paid enough to choose to have internet right now but if things get much more skewed in favor of the companies I'll have to choose to not have internet at all.

—Amanda, Saint Paul, MN

Stop screwing over the American consumer. Protect net neutrality!

—Nathan Conrey, Old Hickory, TN

Net neutrality is important to me because I, along with many others, have read "1984."

—Andrew Ewart, Stanley,

I am a college student who will soon have to pay off loans, get a job, and start a life for myself. The end of net neutrality means the end of a reliable and relatively cheap internet connection for struggling college graduates looking for jobs. Net neutrality is the great equalizer in a world where the divide between rich and poor grows wider each year. I beg you to consider the voice of the people and not just the corporations with political and financial clout. Thank you!

—Olivia Chambliss, Los Angeles, CA

Net Neutrality is important to me because I want to own my own business someday. Likely it will be online and if my established competitors can pay to have faster service on their website I may not be able to compete. Taking away net neutrality sets up another barrier to competition online. Don't destroy the internet. Please.

—Ryan Moore, noblesville, IN

Dear FCC, Out of all the things you should be regulating a keen eye should be focused on Net Neutrality. Giving your faults, such as bleeping God but not damn, I believe that it should be pointed out that you should regulate internet speed. If internet speed was determined by the amount of money a company can shell out then the ability for small businesses to grow is impeded. The creation of businesses would also be impeded. With online shopping fast becoming the norm Net Neutrality helps small businesses reach a larger number of people that they would have difficulty in reaching without the internet. Net Neutrality also ensures that business isn't lost, for these small businesses, because another larger corporation has the means to purchase better speed that the small businesses can not access because of lack of funds. In today's world speed is a necessary, and giving internet providers the ability to charge for faster speeds many small businesses will go under because of slow traffic. Sincerely, A concerned public

—Calib, Richburg, SC

Dear FCC, Net Neutrality is important to me for a lot of reasons, but I'll just give the most important here. We live in world where year after year, we become more immersed in technology. This change, this evolution of our way of life has been completely organic - much like the locomotion engine became the backbone of industry. But these technological advancements highlight the key strength of net neutrality - opportunity. There was no legislation passed to send the best car parts to the car companies able to afford them. Eliminating net neutrality snubs opportunity for internet-related advances, and that is unacceptable. America is the land of opportunity, not the land of corporate monopoly.

—Chris Gruhlke, Sioux Falls, SD

How are you going to let these mega ISPs charge the people even more money for poor service? Our economy is already withered and you want Comcast to continue charging us 100 dollars a month for low speeds? How am I supposed to find a job or check my email for important news if a website provides better service but is bottlenecked by the ISP capping their internet speeds? Net Neutrality is important to me because it keeps a level playing field for competitors, and it allows consumers to have a choice. Having competition allows each ISP to continue advanced research on how to improve their service. Without Net Neutrality, these giant ISPs can charge higher amounts without improving the quality of service. That means that they pocket the money and they will never ever care about their subscribers. Shouldn't that money be spent on internet security infrastructure instead? PLEASE PROTECT NET NEUTRALITY AND TOSS OUT THESE CORPORATE-DRIVEN RULES!

—Khai Van, Frederick, MD

It should be obvious how important net neutrality is to the Internet. Cable companies are currently trying to maximize monetary gains by minimizing investment into the industry, a fact that most of America already knows. We know and we are unhappy. We don't want to see the Internet, arguably the most important invention for information in human history, choked by those with no interest in the well being of their own customers -- even their own country. This is a selfish, dangerous act, and it is not good for America. Thank you, Elliott Mest

—C Elliott Mest, Jersey City, NJ

FCC: Please throw out these ridiculous rules and reclassify ISPs as common carriers. Short-term dollars are not worth it. Don't be the people that allowed net-neutrality to end on your watch.

—Matthew Barber, Everett, WA

To whom it may concern, Though it may seem minor in comparison to the other issues we face, the protection of internet neutrality may be the most important decision we make. The internet, among billions of other technologies, is the most important resource we have to advancing as a human culture. It's already changed everything about how we live, how we work, how we express ourselves, and how we evolve. Allowing ISPs to discriminate against those who cannot afford to pay their rates to share information pr those the ISPs do not approve of nearly assure's an impediment of speech and expression unless it is favorable to ISPs that are already larger and more controlling than necessary. Please, reconsider this choice -- for the future of all America.

—Andrew Lewis Fessler, Raleigh, NC

Dear FCC, America needs to retain net neutrality in order to allow everyone the ability to start a web-based business, as they have in the past, without needed millions in investment to pay for "fast-lanes." Verizon, Comcast, and other are paying hundreds of millions of dollars to create fake interest groups pretending to be against net-neutrality. Pro-Tip: If the lobbying group has the word "America" in it, it's probably funded by billionaires. So what's it gonna be? "We the people?" Or "You the powerful?"

—Keenan Dailey, Waltham, MA

Please see through this offensive attempt by greedy cable companies. Ending net neutrality will negatively impact a huge number of people. The only ones who will benefit are cable company CEOs and stock holders.

—Duke, Los Angeles, CA

there are a seemingly innumerable amount of neckbeards and dungeon dwellers with skills enough to tear down any virtual construct out there. Feel free to sign your own death warrant, but don't say that you "support Net Neutrality".

—Russell Rivet, Toronto,

internet is more than entertainment. it is access to information and knowledge. And no one should determine who will ultimately have more or less access to it.

—Julian Bernal, Toluca, Mexico,

ISPs should be classified as common carriers. They will abuse the system if net neutrality is erased and no one wants that.

—James, Franklin Square, NY

Because freedom of information isn't a punchline.

—M Ferguson, Worcester, MA

The internet's place as a common (and to many, primary) communication medium means that allowing access restriction is a violation of free speech. Internet service providers own the means of delivery, NOT the content delivered.

—Ben Gunness, Sutton, MA

Net neutrality is important to me because I don't want my right to free speech trampled on by big corporations, just because they have more money and resources.

—Ann Steilberg, Columbus, IN

I think that access to the internet should be free, both upload and download, and hope that it doesn't go the way of cell phone plan rip offs for data. The whole story of the internet including the inventor as well as the ability to share thoughts and educate is very American, please don't make it a story of the dark side of capitalism. Isn't it obvious that AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon ruin everything?

—Gregg Hoffman, Pittsburgh, PA

Net Neutrality is the freedom of the internet. Not that this comment will matter, I'm no fool, I can see clearly that the ISP's will have their way, because sad as it is, in America it's not the right voice that is heard, or even the largest, it's the one with the most money.

—John-Thomas Neugent, Ozark, MO

As a web developer and Computer Science professor at Binghamton University, I understand the intricacies of the Net Neutrality issue in a bit more detail than the average American. I do and will deal with the consequences of this decision on a daily basis. The free and open internet is responsible for my life today. Neither of my parents were college graduates. With the information I found on the internet, I was able to put myself through school. Without a free and open internet, I would not have been able to get my education. Without a free and open internet, I would not be able to teach effectively. Without a free and open internet, there might as well be no internet at all. The internet has succeeded in leveling playing field for anyone willing to spend a little time researching a problem, regardless of race, economic status, gender, religion, or sexual preference. The only limit to what I can learn is me. Unless, of course, the the ISPs have their way. If they are allowed to destroy Net Neutrality, then they get to decide if I get an education. They get to decide what my students learn. They get to decide how much information will cost me and what I can know. ISPs should be classified as common carriers because, just like no corporation should control the flow of electricity, the flow of water, no corporation should control the flow of information. This is a moment in history where the United States can either choose the right path or make a mistake that will take generations to correct. Please, let's choose the right path.

—Steven Moore, Binghamton, NY

The internet needs to be reclassified as a public utility, similar to phone lines. Anything short of that is merely a pandering attempt at pacification and will not be tolerated.

—Matthew Yoh, Charlottesville, VA

Net Neutrality is important to me since the country was founded on equal opportunities, clearly something that barely exists now in the cable and internet industry. Why give away the rest of that small shred of freedom to big corporations like Comcast, AT&T, or Time Warner Cable? I already have no choice in my internet and cable provider, so why give them more freedom to charge me what they want to so I can watch a simple TV show that I am paying to watch already?

—Lyndsey Gentry, Columbia, SC

Net Neutrality is important to me because I have no other way to communicate with other bipolar people. My online support groups of fellow bipolar patients is as much support as I have in my life. I feel like I'm not alone when I'm able to talk with them. How would I be able to communicate with them when I can't afford a so-called "fast lane"? I want to communicate with my friends without worrying about how bad my internet will be. My girlfriend is long-distance. We Skype every weekend. We have no other means of contact, as neither of us have phones. Internet is important to us to have communication.

—Deyanira Rivera, Colorado Springs, CO

Leave the internet alone. I already have to pay more to get fast enough upload speeds for my college tests, which is ridiculous. Internet providers already slow down their speeds and require you to pay more if you want a faster or better connection. If you allow net neutrality to come to an end, there will be a never ending gouging of consumers by the companies involved, such as has been seen by the TV/Cable providers who are the ones behind this. In this electronic age, internet access is close to a necessity and allowing companies to deliberately slow down traffic in order to charge more will greatly impact those who depend on the internet for school, communication and their livelihood.

—Dawn Larson, Houston, TX

Because allowing corporations to restrict access to knowledge is fundamentally wrong. Anyway they try to dress this up, restrictions to net neutrality do nothing to benefit anyone other than the bottom line of these mega corporations. They are proposing no options that will actually benefit our citizens, or spur on any actual competitiveness within the industry. This will only lead to more isolated communities getting less options, while lowering the bar of everyone's service.

—Luke Buckman, San Diego, CA

Net Neutrality is important to me because it keeps companies from deciding what websites I should visit.

—Charles Micer, Pearl, MS

I'm a Computer Science student, and being that I come from a poorer family, the internet has always been my most invaluable tool for bettering myself and providing a better future for not only me, but my loved ones too. If America's ISP were reclassified as common carriers, it would allow me to continue accessing the myriad of invaluable information and opportunities across the internet; in this way, I could instead forward the little money I'm able to make towards health insurance and basic necessities.

—Ken Greathouse, Bedford, TX

The attacks on net neutrality are a direct attack on American capitalism, strengthening existing monopolies and pseudo-monopolies while preventing new corporations from ever challenging them. Internet access has become a necessity to function in our society much like telephones and electricity; it should be treated as such.

—Bruce Boville, AUSTIN, TX

Making sure that a free, open and equal internet is absolutely vital for the continued progress of our society and also for the safety and stability of our economy and the sake of the very companies trying to end it. After all, you can only do so much to a people before they stop caring about the rules that rig the game against them and start marching towards Verizon and Comcast's headquarters.

—Brad Graves, Youdontneedtoknow, NJ

Corporations should not be allowed to decide which information should be more expensive to access. Without net neutrality, I would not have been able to reach where I am in my education and career.

—Colby Haggerty, Newark, DE

Please do not allow service providers to discriminate against online content and applications. Please reclassify ISPs as common carriers.

—Jeremy Baker, NEWbury, OH

Eight reasons why net neutrality is important: 1. Many of the companies lobbying for the destruction of net neutrality have a reputation for lying to the public. They can't be trusted anymore than the boy who cried wolf. 2. Net discrimination can potentially be misused to censor the internet. This must be treated as a fundamental threat to both freedom of speech, and freedom of the press. One could argue that the "censored" pages can still be accessed, at low speeds but I wouldn't consider that a valid excuse, since speed is (at least in my opinion) less important than basic ethics of fair play. 3. It is unfair for any service provider to discriminate against any party. Period. 4. Without net neutrality, ISP competition will be stifled, even more so than it is now. 5. Net neutrality is essential to the development and promotion of innovative ideas. 6. Without net neutrality, many online business, especially start-up companies, will ultimately fail. 7. Although there may be some truth to the claim that ISPs cannot handle a high amount of future traffic, intentionally slowing down certain websites is not a solution -- rather it's the problem these companies claim they're trying to fix. Destroying net neutrality to fix slow internet is like trying to reduce college debt by making higher-interest student loans. 8. Money is not an excuse for discrimination. Otherwise, malicious groups such as the Ku Klux Klan would have bought the right to murder innocents in the streets over a century ago. For these reasons, net neutrality is not only an essential means to ensure everyone plays fair (hence the term "neutrality"), it's also an important aspect of innovation, business, and freedom. I must urge those considering the destruction of neutrality to realize that the losses will outweigh the gains. Net discrimination might benefit some companies, but mostly those have a reputation of anti-competitive, dishonest, or otherwise malicious behavior, which is often directed at their own customers. Net discrimination will allow them to launch this malicious behavior on a much larger scale than ever. Other parties should not have to suffer for this.

—Tyler Johnson, Orange, CA

Dear greedy vultures, Please go kill yourselves. Hope you get repeatedly raped to death by wasteland marauders, your spouses and children beaten to death and eaten in front of you. After they rape you, they should shit the remains of your spouses and children on you as you slowly bleed out. Suck demon dicks in hell, stay away from net neutrality, and eat shit and die. Fuck you especially Tom Wheeler, you disgusting dingo-fucking troll. Special rape death hopes to Broadband of America members, you tyrannical greedy pieces of human shit! Fuck all of you!

—Fuck You Tom Wheeler You Dingo, Fuckyoubitch, FL

ISPs should be classed as common carriers because the Internet is a public utility. It is the medium to which commerce is increasingly migrating, it is a forum for the exchange of ideas, and it is a platform from which to develop the next steps in virtually every conceivable field that will have an impact on our future. All of that is threatened by an internet that plays favorites in any way other than its own natural, democratic flow. Allowing providers to throttle some sites' bandwidth and open others' up is simply a desperate renewal of a good-ol'-boys system that is antiquated and irrelevant in our increasingly-global society. The US is the "land of the free." The FCC has a unique opportunity, right now, to make the cascading loss of our freedoms falter, perhaps even reverse.

—Christopher Byler, Duluth, MN

I believe that doing away with net neutrality will be actually disastrous to future innovation and have a detrimental effect on our economy. However, more importantly the FCC has a moral obligation to protect the rights of average American citizens and to stand against greedy Internet service providers. Providers who are trying to artificially slow down a service that Americans had paid top dollar for in order to extort money out of websites. They are truly no better than the mob demanding "protection money". As part of the federal government, you work for the American people, and the American people overwhelmingly want strong protections of net neutrality.

—Elizabeth Ross, Cambridge, MA

Without net neutrality, large ISPs will be able to instantly shut down small hosting services, and larger ones will be forced to charge more for their services so that they can ensure that people can actually reach websites that they host. Over time, more and more companies won't want to put up with the costs involved in maintaining a significant online presence, making the internet less useful. I work in credit card processing, and a lot of the time, my job is to help small companies with setting up some sort of online payment system. If net neutrality dies, it won't be long before a significant portion of my job dies with it. This also means that fewer transactions will be processed, something that will be bad for financial institutions as well. The loss of net neutrality will impact industries that aren't even primarily centered around the internet. In the long run, which is absolutely what policy should be designed around, less functionality on the internet is bad for everyone, and will ultimately lead to it being phased out of popular usage. Net neutrality benefits everyone, including the ISPs, even if they're too shortsighted to see it.

—Greg Nieto, Lone Tree, CO

The internet is founded on net neutrality, and is one of the last remaining locations of truly free commerce where someone with little capital can create a business of their own and become quite successful. Removing net neutrality will effectively kill this American dream and set our technological progress back decades.

—Travis Thayer, Santa Barbara, CA

So the cable companies charge more for fast internet to amazon? who pays for that cost, amazon or amazons customer? its not rocket science. And if it happens in america it will certainly happen pretty much everywhere else.

—Ian, liverpool,

I already pay Comcast over \$150 each month just to have access to the sports channels my boyfriend loves so much. Allowing giant corporations such as Comcast and Verizon the ability to slow down or speed up the loading time of any webpage to make even more money would violate our rights; if a celebrity can pay extra to have their blog or whatever load faster than any normal schmo's page, no one who wasn't born into the rich and famous lifestyle will gain. It's stupid that there is even a question about what "the people" want on this one. Falling for (or giving into) these corporations games to get even more billions of dollars should be beneath you. Unless, of course, you're already in their pocket. Than nothing anybody says will matter, since they sign your checks. I truly hope that this isn't the case, and that these ridiculous "regulations" will be tossed in the trash where they belong. Freedom to gain the knowledge you need is the biggest advantage we have in today's society, don't hobble it to fatten your purse.

—Hannah deJong, Epping, NH

Dear FCC, Fuck the cable companies. This debate is so unbelievably stupid. Why are we even still arguing about this? Just make the right decision. Please.

—Myles, Bryn Mawr, PA

Net neutrality protects innovation and prevents hidden restriction of my right to free expression. Government is supposed to protect the weak from the strong.

—Michael Noonan, Windsor, CT

Dear FCC, I sure hope you represent the public and not telecomm providers!

—Gary Baribault, Aiken, SC

Because we shouldn't give any company the power to determine what is and isn't seen on the most powerful tool of communication that we have.

—Will B, Wilmington, DE

The cable companies already have monopolies over Internet service, and net neutrality is the only thing stopping them from hiking prices to absurd levels. They are also falsifying supply and demand of data. Advancements in ISP technology are out there but are being blocked by the cable giants.

—Trevor Goodwin, Minneapolis, MN

Net Neutrality is important to me because I don't want my access to the infinite resources that the internet provides to be restricted by corporations who will charge more for the same services they provide. The internet is the first global method of delivering information and the first instance of a global connection for mankind. And cable companies want to sandwich themselves between the people and the internet so that they can make an extra buck. The cable companies' biggest lie is that they are doing this to protect us, the consumers. They only look out for themselves.

—William Wyatt, Mobile, AL

The internet should always remain neutral. Giving big cable companies the right to decide what company gets what bandwidth goes against what the internet stands for in the worse way. They should never be able to charge money to companies to give them preference over others. Please do not allow these companies the right to charge for bandwidth. This goes against the right for free speech by not allowing anyone the same chance to get their website out there.

—Andrew Barry, Parkton, NC

Net Neutrality is important to me as a Dentist because it allows small businesses an even playing field with big businesses who can certainly outspend for increased bandwidth speeds further skewing their market share.

—John Troehler, Louisville, KY

The Internet should remain a place where ideas can be spread and discussed freely, without being forced under the control a few people who will think that they have right to decide who gets access to what. It would be like forcing the inequality of the real world to a place which actually could be used on relatively even terms by anyone.

—Petia Kojouharova, Budapest,

Please don't allow greedy corporations choose who gets to be heard first, and who's voice is slowed

—Nathan, tulsa, OK

In my mind net neutrality is the online version of the first Amendment. This is free speech, where random person's blog has equal access to a reader as would someone like Perez Hilton's (or someone else who has a profitable enough blog to pay for a higher level of service should net neutrality be voted down. I don't see that as a fair system. Large corporations already have the ability to buy their ways into our homes with commercials, don't give them another venue, except this time it's regulated by service providers that are making money for the sole reason that they provide the content.

—Christopher Postma, Leawood, KS

The fact that Comcast cut bandwidth to Netflix until Netflix caved to Comcast's demands is proof positive that they intend to strong-arm independent web services into paying higher fees for lower bandwidth availability. Keep the net neutral.

—Alexander Picasso, Stockton, CA

It is important that my already high priced and very slow internet not go up in price while the speed continues to slow down. I work online everyday, and for years my speeds have slowed to a crawl due to these mega giants merging and destroying competition. We created the internet, yet we have one of the slowest internet speeds in the world. All due to lack of competition. I understand that today money buys politicians unlike anytime in our history, and that politicians will do whatever they have to get that money. But enough is enough.

—Donal Carroll, Mesa, AZ

In the 15 years I've been online, what strikes me most about the Internet is that it is society's only truly even playing field. In it's current state, anyone from a 12 year old in Karachi to a 50 year old in Bangor can access the exact same wealth of information. Furthermore, it provides them both with the same shot at building something wonderful online. The Internet represents the whole entirety of human knowledge, art, and experience. That anyone should feel it is their right to restrict access to this, simply for the sake of squeezing more and more money out of customers, disgusts me. I view it as akin to privatizing a library, then forcing authors to pay premiums to have their books put on the shelves. Beyond that, the readers are already paying, too. Companies like Comcast and AT&T are lying to the FCC, Congress, and We the American People. They have created "citizens groups" that are comprised of precisely zero concerned citizens, and are spending unprecedented amounts of money to win votes. This is not the way our laws ought to be written, it is not the foundation on which our country stands. Net neutrality benefits a small percentage of people (read: wealthy CEOs) while placing a new and cumbersome burden on everyone else. There is a substantial portion of the workforce who supports themselves and their families with online based business and ventures. Allowing these juggernauts to close them out and manipulate their ability to thrive will destroy the fastest growing sector of our economy, and severely curb the creative and productive output of those who do their business online. The Internet has allowed, for the first time in Human history, a totally free forum for the exchange of ideas, goods, and services. It is a shame that this oligarchy of ISPs feels they should have the whole thing to themselves. Please, defend Net Neutrality. Do it for us, the bloggers and the coders. Do it for the web designers, the cat videos, and the gamers. Do it for the musicians, filmmakers, and artists. Do it for the merchants, the craftsmen, the educators. Do it for the researchers, the doctors, the scientists. Do it for the journalists, the schoolchildren, the mothers and fathers and lovers and friends. Do it for yourself.

—Taylor Campbell, Austin, TX

Without net neutrality companies like Netflix and Hulu would have never been allowed to exist. The rise of free to play online games would also suffer. Many are currently funded with micro-transactions which only work because they are cheap. As these online games require significant bandwidth they would also suffer without net neutrality and the increase in the cost of their bandwidth would be passed to micro-transactions which may lead to the end of the free to play industry as well. Without enforced net neutrality there is nothing stopping the internet from becoming the segmented mess which is cable television. All it would take is one ISP signing an exclusive deal with Google to render it unavailable to any without that ISP. This slippery slope could result in a significantly less world-wide version of the web. Finally, a lack of net neutrality could result in certain portions of the internet, such as those which complain about ISPs, from being denied the ability to function (perhaps such a small bandwidth that the site could never load). Thank you for your time. Jeremy

—Jeremy Washington, Lakewood, CO

Because my right to free information should not be hindered by companies looking to make a quick dollar!

—Rebecca Schehr, Columbia, MO

Allowing service providers to regulate speed of access to webpages impinges on freedom of speech. This industry needs regulation to protect consumers, just like telecom. ISP's should be common carriers.

—Nathaniel Borneman, Tempe, AZ

I'd rather not have to spend a small fortune every month just so I won't be banished back to the days of 56k modems and dial up.

—Edward Forsyth, Grand Blanc, MI

The cable providers are an oligarchy. Their representatives have stated publicly that they stay out of others' territories. This removes competition and is a perfect example of how a free market isn't supposed to work. They're just trying to maintain their oligarchy in other areas of media as well. Please don't accept this and ask your coworkers in government to stop accepting bri- "campaign contributions" from these people.

—James McIntyre, Mansfield, TX

The internet provides access to education-- making the internet "fast lane" would insure that the wealthier Americans get better access to education than poorer Americans. This is anathema to everything America stands for. Thank you

—Aviv Rubinstien, Los Angeles, CA

The cable companies run giant monopolies, the internet should not be another feather in their caps.

—Bob Bradfield, Mont Belvieu, TX

Dear FCC, Throw out your current rules and re-classify ISPs as common carriers so they can be regulated. This is the only way to ensure free speech is truly protected and not drowned out by those who can influence the carriers. We are already at the point where almost all information is transmitted via internet and without adequate protection the ISPs will have massive power and control over information dissemination essential to both our democracy and a very large and growing portion of our economy.

—Micah Johnston, Mounds View, MN

"Net Neutrality is the worst thing to happen to the internet ever" (this message has been sponsored by Comcast)

—Will Bartel, Harvest, AL

With how everything else is going in this once grandiose nation, this step was easily predicted to happen and I hope it does... keep pushing the American people and the rich snobs will end up losing, cause money cant buy keeping their middle class and lower class slaves inline forever!

—JK Willis, Blum, TX

If I have to pay a dollar extra on every site I NEED (not want) with my budget I am going to have to switch to eating noodles and water. It is that simple, I can't afford to eat and also use the internet for the things I need to do.

—Jonathan Grant, Elliot Lake,

The internet needs to be a fair, open playing field for everyone, not just for those who can afford to pay more. This proposal is immensely disadvantageous to American citizens. Keep the internet neutral and free.

—Trent Weaver, Nashville, TN

Please keep the internet equal for everyone.

—Justin King, kingsland, TX

Net neutrality has always been a great thing, simply because it allows everyone to use the Internet equally without letting greedy companies like Verizon and comcast force people to pay premiums for sites that shouldn't require it. The only reason corporations like Verizon or at&t are in support of no net neutrality is so that they can take as much extra cash as they want from consumers who need to use a variety of sites which would conveniently be split up amongst all of their "teirs" of websites premium packaging.

—Christian Sohn, columbia, MD

FCC, throw out your rules and reclassify ISPs as common carriers.

—Patrick Reidy, Columbia, MD